E/2004/27
E/CN.6/2004/14

United Nations

Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the forty-eighth session (1-12 March 2004)

Economic and Social Council

Official Records, 2004
Supplement No. 7 (E/2004/27-E/CN.6/2004/14)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2004
Supplement No. 7 (E/2004/27-E/CN.6/2004/14)

Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the forty-eighth session
(1-12 March 2004)

United Nations • New York, 2004

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

ISSN 0252-0117

Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	1
	A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council	1
	I. Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan	1
	II. Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women	6
	III. Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality	8
	IV. Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building	12
	B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	15
	Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-eighth session and the provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission	16
	C. Matters brought to the attention of the Council	17
	Resolution 48/1. Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women	18
	Resolution 48/2. Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS	18
	Resolution 48/3. Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts	21
	Resolution 48/4. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system	23
	Resolution 48/5. Preparations for the forty-ninth session of the Commission	26
	Decision 48/101. Working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women	27
	Decision 48/102. Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 3	27
	Decision 48/103. Future work of the Working Group on Communications	28
II.	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	29
III.	Communications concerning the status of women	50
IV.	Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	55
V.	Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission	56

VI. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session 5

VII. Organization of the session 5

A. Opening and duration of the session 5

B. Attendance 5

C. Election of officers 5

D. Agenda and organization of work 5

E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women 5

Annexes

I. Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality 6

II. Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building 6

III. Summary submitted by the co-chairpersons of the high-level round table of the Commission on the Status of Women on gaps and challenges in measuring progress in the context of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and that outcome of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly 6

IV. List of documents before the Commission at its forty-eighth session 7

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan*

The Economic and Social Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenants on Human Rights,[2] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[3] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[4] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and the Optional Protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict[7] and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[8] the Beijing Declaration[9] and Platform for Action,[10] the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session,[11] accepted humanitarian rules as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[12] and other instruments of human rights and international law,

Recalling that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,[13] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,[14] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[15] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[16] and

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 43-48.

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[2] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.

[4] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[6] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

[7] General Assembly resolution 54/263, annex I.

[8] Ibid., annex II.

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[10] Ibid., annex II.

[11] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[13] General Assembly resolution 260 A (III), annex.

[14] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.

[15] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[16] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

the Optional Protocols thereto,[17] the Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[18]

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, and 1460 (2003), on children and armed conflict, and in this context recognizing the recent Security Council mission to Afghanistan, from 30 October to 8 November 2003, which reviewed, inter alia, the humanitarian and human rights situation of women,

Welcoming the entry into force on 26 January 2004 of a new Constitution following the successful outcome of the Constitutional Loya Jirga, at which women played a prominent and crucial role, while also welcoming, in particular, the provisions of the new Constitution, which state that the citizens of Afghanistan, whether men or women, are equal before the law and guarantee the rights of women to serve in the National Assembly,

Welcoming also the continuing commitment of the Afghan Transitional Administration to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, the restoration of the active participation of Afghan women in political, economic and social life, the education of girls as well as boys and the opportunity for women to work outside the home,

Welcoming further the fact that the Back-to-School campaign launched by the Ministry of Education and the United Nations Children's Fund has been a major success and that 4.2 million children are now enrolled in school, while recognizing the need for the enrolment rate of girls in school to improve considerably,

Welcoming the inclusion of women in the Transitional Administration, the Judicial Reform Commission, the Independent Human Rights Commission, the Constitutional Commission and the Secretariat of the Constitutional Loya Jirga, and stressing the importance of the full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes regarding the future of Afghanistan,

Welcoming also the fact that the National Development Framework of the Transitional Administration reflects the needs of, and the importance of the role to be taken by, women and girls in the process of peace-building, reconstruction and development, and welcoming in this regard the assistance provided by the international community to achieve these goals,

Welcoming further the efforts of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, which host millions of Afghan refugees, especially women and children, and have provided humanitarian assistance in many areas, such as education, health and other basic services,

Recognizing that, in spite of recent improvements, women in Afghanistan continue to face serious violations of their rights in many parts of the country, in particular in rural areas,

---

[17] General Assembly resolution 54/263, annexes I and II.

[18] A/CONF.183/9.

Recognizing also that Afghan women are primary stakeholders and agents of change, who must have the opportunity to identify their own needs, interests and priorities in all sectors of society as full partners in the rebuilding of their society,

Strongly emphasizing that a safe environment, free from violence, discrimination and abuse, for all Afghans, is essential for a viable and sustainable recovery and reconstruction process,

1. *Welcomes*:

(a) The ongoing commitments made by the Afghan Transitional Administration to recognize, protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to respect and promote respect for international humanitarian law;

(b) The provisions of the new Constitution, which state that the citizens of Afghanistan, whether men or women, are equal before the law and that at least two women are to be elected to the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) from each province, as a national average, and which provide for half of the President's nominees to the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) to be women;

(c) The ongoing security sector reform processes being undertaken by the Afghanistan Transitional Administration with the support of the international community, including the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants and the recruitment of a new cadre of women police;

2. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan;[19]

3. *Urges* the Afghan Transitional Administration and future Government:

(a) To ensure that the provisions of the new Constitution are implemented fully and that any legislative, administrative and other measures support the full enjoyment by women and girls of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including by mainstreaming gender issues into the activities of all Afghanistan Transitional Administration ministries;

(b) To enable the full, equal and effective participation of women and girls in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country at all levels;

(c) To protect the right to freedom of movement, expression and association for women and girls;

(d) To implement fully its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and prepare the initial report due in March 2004 and to raise awareness and strengthen the knowledge of women and girls and their families about their rights, including the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls;

(e) To ensure that the electoral processes, including those in 2004, are carried out and monitored closely to make certain that women are able to register, participate fully and support special measures that would guarantee that they are represented in local, provincial and national government positions;

[19] E/CN.6/2004/5.

(f) To ensure that the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the permanent Afghan judicial institutions have adequate human and financial resources to fulfil their mandates and address gender perspectives in line with international standards;

(g) To continue its efforts to re-establish the rule of law, in accordance with international standards, inter alia, by ensuring that law enforcement agencies respect and uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a particular emphasis on access to justice for women;

(h) To continue its efforts to reflect a gender perspective in the training and activities of its police, army, prosecutors and judiciary and to promote the recruitment of Afghan women in all ranks;

(i) To review and improve the practices of law enforcement personnel when dealing with women victims of violence, including domestic and sexual violence, and trafficking, in particular those accused of offences based on tradition or imprisoned for social reasons;

(j) To strengthen efforts, including through legislative measures, to prevent and eliminate violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence and trafficking, inter alia, by raising awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate violence against women, with the aim of changing the attitudes and behaviour that allow such crimes to take place;

(k) To ensure that gender-sensitive approaches are applied in the development and application of procedures during data collection for the census and the registration of voters to deliver universal suffrage and the full participation of women in the national elections in 2004;

(l) To ensure the equal rights of women and girls to education, the effective functioning of schools throughout the country and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education, in a safe and secure environment, and to support the educational needs of those women and girls who were excluded from education in the past;

(m) To respect the equal right of women to work and promote their reintegration in employment in all sectors and at all levels of Afghan society;

(n) To protect the equal right of women and girls to security of person and to bring to justice those responsible for violence against women and girls;

(o) To continue demobilization and disarmament and facilitate the reintegration of women and girls who have been affected by war into society and work;

(p) To ensure the effective and equal access of women and girls, on the basis of equality among all Afghans, to the facilities necessary to protect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, in accordance with the obligations of Afghanistan under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;[2]

(q) To ensure the equal right of women to own land and other property, inter alia, through the right to inheritance, and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital,

appropriate technologies and access to and control over natural resources as well as access to markets and information;

(r) To consider implementing gender budgeting in the national budget and in all budgets of ministries;

(s) To ensure that Afghan women are well represented at international conferences and that during the upcoming Berlin Conference adequate attention is given to issues relating to the rights of women and girls;

(t) To support measures to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, to hold accountable those who were responsible for gross violations of human rights in the past and to ensure that full investigations are conducted and perpetrators brought to justice, in accordance with international standards, in order to combat impunity;

4. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations and its agencies, donors and civil society, guided by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000):

(a) To provide financial and technical assistance, including support to the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls so as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to participate fully and effectively in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts and in civil, political, economic, cultural and social life;

(b) To support fully the Afghan Transitional Administration regarding the participation of women in society, inter alia, by providing support to ministries to develop their capacity to mainstream gender issues into their programmes;

(c) To support capacity-building for Afghan women to enable them to participate fully in all sectors, with special emphasis on ensuring women's participation and representation in all aspects of the 2004 electoral process;

(d) To provide technical and other relevant assistance so that the judicial system has the capacity to adhere to international standards of human rights;

5. *Invites* the United Nations system, international and non-governmental organizations, and donors:

(a) To ensure a human rights-based approach and coherent policy and resources for gender mainstreaming in all programmes and operations, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, and to ensure that women benefit equally with men from such programmes in all sectors;

(b) To ensure the full and effective participation of Afghan women in all stages of humanitarian assistance, recovery, reconstruction and development, including planning, programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

(c) To support the elements of civil society active in the field of human rights and encourage the involvement of women therein;

(d) To ensure that all their international and national personnel, prior to beginning their service, receive training in gender equality as well as appropriate training in the history, culture and traditions of Afghanistan and are fully familiar with and guided by international standards of human rights;

(e) To integrate efforts to improve the health status of women within all reconstruction efforts, especially through access to skilled prenatal care, increasing access to skilled birth attendance, education programmes on basic health issues, community information activities and emergency obstetric care;

(f) To continue to support measures for the employment of women and the integration of a gender perspective into all social, development and reconstruction programmes, taking into account the special needs of widows and returning refugee and displaced women and girls as well as those living in rural areas;

6. *Strongly urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that the important post of Senior Gender Adviser in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan is filled immediately and with due regard to the need for continuity in this task;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution II
Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[20]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[21] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[22] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[23]

Recalling also its resolution 2003/42 of 22 July 2003 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[24] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Expressing the urgent need for the resumption of negotiations within the Middle East peace process on its agreed basis and towards the speedy achievement of a final settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Concerned about the grave deterioration of the situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and about the severe

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 49-55.

[20] E/CN.6/2004/4.

[21] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[22] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[23] See General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and S-23/3.

[24] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

consequences of continuous illegal Israeli settlements activities as well as the harsh economic conditions and other severe consequences of the continuing Israeli attacks and sieges on Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps, which has resulted in the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families,

Concerned also that the route marked out for the wall under construction by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, could prejudge future negotiations and make the two-State solution physically impossible to implement and would cause further humanitarian hardship to the Palestinians, in particular women and children,

Expressing its condemnation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians, many of them women and children, resulting in injury and loss of human life,

1. *Calls upon* the concerned parties, as well as the international community, to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the immediate resumption of the peace process on its agreed basis, taking into account the common ground already gained, and calls for measures for tangible improvement of the difficult situation on the ground and the living conditions faced by Palestinian women and their families;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[25] the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907[26] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[27] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[21] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[22] and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[23]

---

[25] General Assembly resolution 212 A (III).

[26] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[27] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in his report entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women",[28] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session a report including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III
Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality*

The Economic and Social Council,

Endorses the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session with respect to the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality:

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recalls and reiterates that the Beijing Declaration[29] and the Platform for Action[30] encouraged men to participate fully in all actions towards gender equality and urged the establishment of the principle of shared power and responsibility between women and men at home, in the community, in the workplace and in the wider national and international communities. The Commission also recalls and reiterates the outcome document adopted at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Gender equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century", which emphasized that men must take joint responsibility with women for the promotion of gender equality.

2. The Commission recognizes that while men and boys sometimes face discriminatory barriers and practices, they can and do make contributions to gender equality in many capacities, including as individuals, members of families, social groups and communities and in all spheres of society.

3. The Commission recognizes that gender inequalities still exist and are reflected in imbalances of power between women and men in all spheres of society. The Commission further recognizes that everyone benefits from gender equality and that the negative impacts of gender inequality are borne by society as a whole and emphasizes, therefore, that men and boys, through taking responsibility themselves and working jointly in partnership with women and girls, are essential to the achievement of the goals of gender equality, development and peace. The Commission recognizes the capacity of men and boys in bringing about change in attitudes, relationships and access to resources and decision-making, which are critical for the promotion of gender equality and the full enjoyment of all human rights by women.

4. The Commission acknowledges and encourages men and boys to continue to take positive initiatives to eliminate gender stereotypes and promote gender equality, including combating violence against women, through networks,

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 89-91.

[28] E/CN.6/2004/4.

[29] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[30] Ibid., annex II.

peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes. The Commission acknowledges the critical role of gender-sensitive education and training in achieving gender equality.

5. The Commission also recognizes that the participation of men and boys in achieving gender equality must be consistent with the empowerment of women and girls and acknowledges that efforts must be made to address the undervaluation of many types of work, abilities and roles associated with women. In this regard, it is important that resources for gender equality initiatives for men and boys do not compromise equal opportunities and resources for women and girls.

6. The Commission urges Governments and, as appropriate, the relevant funds, programmes, and organizations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, civil society, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to take the following actions:

(a) Encourage and support the capacity of men and boys in fostering gender equality, including acting in partnership with women and girls as agents for change and in providing positive leadership, in particular where men are still key decision makers, responsible for policies, programmes and legislation, as well as holders of economic and organizational power and public resources;

(b) Promote understanding of the importance of fathers, mothers, legal guardians and other caregivers to the well-being of children and the promotion of gender equality and the need to develop policies, programmes and school curricula that encourage and maximize their positive involvement in achieving gender equality and positive results for children, families and communities;

(c) Create and improve training and education programmes to enhance awareness and knowledge among men and women of their roles as parents, legal guardians and caregivers and the importance of sharing family responsibilities, and include fathers as well as mothers in programmes that teach infant childcare development;

(d) Develop and include in education programmes for parents, legal guardians and other caregivers information on ways and means to increase the capacity of men to raise children in a manner oriented towards gender equality;

(e) Encourage men and boys to work with women and girls in the design of policies and programmes for men and boys aimed at gender equality and foster the involvement of men and boys in gender mainstreaming efforts in order to ensure improved design of all policies and programmes;

(f) Encourage the design and implementation of programmes at all levels to accelerate a sociocultural change towards gender equality, especially through the upbringing and educational process, and by changing harmful traditional perceptions of and attitudes regarding male and female roles in order to achieve the full and equal participation of women and men in society;

(g) Develop and implement programmes for pre-schools, schools, community centres, youth organizations, sport clubs and centres and other groups dealing with children and youth, including training for teachers, social workers and other professionals who deal with children, in order to foster positive attitudes and behaviours on gender equality;

(h) Promote critical reviews of school curricula, textbooks and other information education and communication materials at all levels in order to recommend ways to strengthen the promotion of gender equality that involves the engagement of boys as well as girls;

(i) Develop and implement strategies to educate boys and girls and men and women about tolerance, mutual respect for all individuals and the promotion of all human rights;

(j) Develop and utilize a variety of methods in public information campaigns on the role of men and boys in promoting gender equality, including through approaches specifically targeting boys and young men;

(k) Engage media, advertising and other related professionals, through the development of training and other programmes, on the importance of promoting gender equality, non-stereotypical portrayal of women and girls and men and boys and on the harms caused by portraying women and girls in a demeaning or exploitative manner, as well as on the enhanced participation of women and girls in the media;

(l) Take effective measures, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, to combat the growing sexualization of, and use of pornography in, media content and in the rapid development of information and communications technology, encourage men in the media to refrain from presenting women as inferior beings and exploiting them as sexual objects and commodities, combat information and communications technology- and media-based violence against women, including criminal misuse of information and communications technology for sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and trafficking in women and girls, and support the development and use of such technology as a resource for the empowerment of women and girls, including those affected by violence, abuse and other forms of sexual exploitation;

(m) Adopt and implement legislation and/or policies to close the gap between women's and men's pay and promote reconciliation of occupational and family responsibilities, including through the reduction of occupational segregation, the introduction or expansion of parental leave, flexible working arrangements, such as voluntary part-time work, tele-working and other home-based work;

(n) Encourage men, through training and education, to fully participate in the care and support of others, including older persons, persons with disabilities and sick persons, in particular children and other dependants;

(o) Encourage the active involvement of men and boys, through education projects and peer-based programmes, in eliminating gender stereotypes as well as gender inequality, in particular in relation to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, as well as their full participation in prevention, advocacy, care, treatment support and impact evaluation programmes;

(p) Ensure men's access to and utilization of reproductive and sexual health services and programmes, including HIV/AIDS-related programmes and services, and encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent and treat all forms of HIV/AIDS transmission and other sexually transmitted infections;

(q) Design and implement programmes to encourage and enable men to adopt safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effectively methods to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;

(r) Encourage and support men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, especially gender-based violence, including in the context of HIV/AIDS, and increase awareness of men's and boys' responsibility in ending the cycle of violence, inter alia, through the promotion of attitudinal and behavioural change, integrated education and training prioritizing the safety of women and children, the prosecution and rehabilitation of perpetrators of violence and support for survivors, recognizing that men and boys also experience violence;

(s) Encourage increased understanding among men of how violence, including trafficking for the purposes of commercialized sexual exploitation, forced marriage and forced labour, harms women, men and children and undermines gender equality, and consider measures aimed at eliminating the demand for trafficked women and children;

(t) Encourage and support both women and men in leadership positions, including political leaders, traditional leaders, business leaders, community and religious leaders, musicians, artists and athletes to provide positive role models of gender equality;

(u) Encourage men in leadership positions to ensure equal access for women to education, property rights and inheritance rights and to promote equal access to information technology and business and economic opportunities, including in international trade, in order to provide women with the tools to enable them to take part fully and equally in economic and political decision-making processes at all levels;

(v) Identify and fully utilize all contexts in which a large number of men can be reached, particularly in male-dominated institutions, industries and associations, in order to sensitize men on their roles and responsibilities in the promotion of gender equality and the full enjoyment of all human rights by women, including in relation to HIV/AIDS and violence against women;

(w) Develop and use statistics to support and/or carry out research, inter alia, on the cultural, social and economic conditions, that influence the attitudes and behaviours of men and boys towards women and girls, their awareness of gender inequalities and their involvement in promoting gender equality;

(x) Carry out research on the views of men and boys on gender equality and their perceptions of their roles through which further programmes and policies can be developed, identify and widely disseminate good practices, and assess the impact of efforts undertaken to engage men and boys in achieving gender equality;

(y) Promote and encourage the representation of men in institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women;

(z) Encourage men and boys to support the equal participation of women in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building;

7. The Commission urges all entities within the United Nations system to take into account the recommendations contained in the present agreed conclusions and to disseminate the agreed conclusions widely.

Draft resolution IV
Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building*

The Economic and Social Council,

Endorses the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session with respect to women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building:

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recalls and reiterates the strategic objectives and actions of the Beijing Declaration[31] and Platform for Action,[32] the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and its agreed conclusions on women and armed conflict adopted at its forty-second session in 1998. It also recalls the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[33] Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 58/142 of 22 December 2003 on women and political participation.

2. The Commission calls for the full respect of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the four Geneva Conventions of 1949,[34] in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

3. The Commission calls for the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls at all times, including during conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building. It further calls for the protection and security for women and girls under threat of violence and their freedom of movement and participation in social, political and economic activities.

4. The Commission recognizes that the root causes of armed conflict are multidimensional in nature, and thus require a comprehensive and integrated approach to the prevention of armed conflict.

5. International cooperation based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations enhances women's full and equal participation in conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building and contributes to the promotion of sustainable and durable peace.

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 92-94.

[31] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[32] Ibid., annex II.

[33] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[34] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

6. To achieve sustainable and durable peace, the full and equal participation of women and girls and the integration of gender perspectives in all aspects of conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building is essential. Yet women continue to be underrepresented in the processes, institutions and mechanisms dealing with these areas. Further effort is therefore needed to promote gender equality and ensure women's equal participation at all levels of decision-making in all relevant institutions. Further effort, including consideration of adequate resourcing, is also needed to build and consolidate the capacity of women and women's groups to participate fully in these processes as well as to promote understanding of the essential role of women. In this regard, the international community should use lessons learned from actual experience to identify and overcome barriers for achieving women's equal participation.

7. The Commission recognizes that while both men and women suffer from the consequences of armed conflict, there is a differential impact on women and girls, who are often subject to, and affected by, particular forms of violence and deprivation. The Commission calls for measures to prevent gender-based violence, including sexual violence against women and girls, as well as trafficking in human beings, especially trafficking in women and girls, arising from armed conflict and in post-conflict situations and to prosecute perpetrators of such crimes.

8. The Commission encourages the collection and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and information for planning, evaluation and analysis in order to promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.

9. Peace agreements provide a vehicle for the promotion of gender equality and the participation of women in post-conflict situations. Significant opportunities for women's participation arise in the preparatory phase leading up to a peace agreement. The content of a peace agreement likewise offers significant scope for ensuring that the rights, concerns and priorities of women and girls are fully addressed. Finally, once a peace agreement has been concluded, its implementation should be pursued with explicit attention to women's full and equal participation and the goal of gender equality.

10. Women's full and equal participation and the integration of gender perspectives are crucial to democratic electoral processes in post-conflict situations. A gender-sensitive constitutional and legal framework, especially electoral laws and regulations, is necessary to ensure that women can fully participate in such processes. Political parties can play a crucial role in promoting women's equal participation. Steps are also necessary to ensure that women participate fully in, and that a gender perspective is incorporated throughout, the design and implementation of voter and civic education programmes and in election administration and observation.

11. Governments in particular, as well as the United Nations system, especially those United Nations entities having a mandate with regard to peace and security, and other relevant international, regional and national actors, including civil society, have a responsibility for advancing gender equality and ensuring women's full and equal participation in all aspects of peace processes and in post-conflict peace-building, reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation, where they are participants in these processes.

12. In regard to conflict prevention, the Commission on the Status of Women calls on Governments, as well as all other relevant participants in these processes, to:

(a) Improve the collection, analysis and inclusion of information on women and gender issues as part of conflict prevention and early warning efforts;

(b) Ensure better collaboration and coordination between efforts to promote gender equality and efforts aimed at conflict prevention;

(c) Support capacity-building, especially for civil society, in particular for women's organizations, in order to increase community commitment to conflict prevention;

(d) Continue to make resources available nationally and internationally for prevention of conflict and ensure women's participation in the elaboration and implementation of strategies for preventing conflict.

13. In regard to peace processes, the Commission on the Status of Women calls on Governments, as well as all other relevant participants in these processes, to:

(a) Promote women's full, equal and effective participation as actors in all peace processes, in particular negotiation, mediation and facilitation;

(b) Ensure that peace agreements address, from a gender perspective, the full range of security aspects, including legal, political, social, economic and physical, and also address the specific needs and priorities of women and girls;

(c) Ensure, in the implementation phase of a peace agreement, that all provisions concerning gender equality and the participation of women are fully complied with and that all provisions of the peace agreement, including demobilization, disarmament, reintegration and rehabilitation, are implemented in a manner that promotes gender equality and ensures women's full and equal participation;

(d) Promote women's full and equal access to public information related to peace processes;

(e) Review, on a regular basis, their contributions to the promotion of gender equality and the full and equal participation of women, and to fulfil their monitoring, accountability and reporting obligations in the implementation of peace agreements;

(f) With regard to gender mainstreaming, ensure and support the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in development activities and peace processes, including conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building and, in this regard, support the involvement of women's organizations, community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations;

(g) Develop and strengthen the provision of gender advisory capacity and gender sensitive training programmes for all staff in missions related to armed conflicts.

In this regard, the Commission takes note of the report of the Secretary-General.

14. In regard to post-conflict peace-building, the Commission on the Status of Women calls on Governments, as well as all other relevant participants in these processes,

– Concerning elections:

(a) To ensure equal access of women in all stages of the electoral process including to consider the adoption of measures for increasing women's participation in elections through, inter alia, individual voter registration, temporary gender-specific positive actions and access to information, representation in bodies administering elections and as election monitors and observers, as well as encouraging political parties to involve women fully and equally in all aspects of their operations;

(b) To ensure equal access for women to voter and civic education, provide women candidates with full support, training and financial resources and eliminate discriminatory practices hampering women's participation either as voters or candidates.

– Concerning reconstruction and rehabilitation:

(a) To ensure the full participation of women on equal bases in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process;

(b) To ensure the equal access of women to social services, in particular health and education and, in this regard, to promote the provision of adequate health care and health services and assistance for women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations and counselling for post-conflict trauma;

(c) To facilitate equal employment opportunities for women to achieve their economic empowerment.

15. The realization and the achievement of the goals of gender equality, development and peace need to be supported by the allocation of necessary human, financial and material resources for specific and targeted activities to ensure gender equality at the local, national, regional and international levels as well as by enhanced and increased international cooperation.

16. The Commission on the Status of Women requests the Secretary-General to disseminate the present agreed conclusions widely, including to the high-level panel on global security threats and reform of the international system.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Draft decision

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-eighth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-ninth session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-eighth session and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-ninth session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

Report on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the thirty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

(a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, with an assessment of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

* For the discussion, see chap. V.

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

(i) Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

(ii) Current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls.

Documentation

Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (thematic issue before the Commission)

Current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls (thematic issue before the Commission)

Note by the Bureau of the Commission: discussion guide on the high-level round table of the Commission

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women

Note by the Secretariat as an input to the high-level segment of the 2005 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

6. Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session.

C. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 48/1
Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling all relevant General Assembly resolutions on the future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/57 of 24 July 2003, in which the Council decided to amend the statute of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Welcoming the establishment of an Executive Board composed of ten Member States as a new governing body of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

1. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and notes the Director's plan to develop a targeted work programme and fund-raising activities for the Institute;

2. *Invites* voluntary financial contributions by Member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and stresses the importance of such contributions to enable it to carry out its mandate, particularly during this critical transitional period;

3. *Urges* the Secretary-General and all relevant United Nations bodies to support efforts to revitalize the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in particular by promoting its collaboration and coordination with other bodies within the United Nations system;

4. *Decides* to continue to encourage efforts to revitalize the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and to monitor progress in this regard during its forty-ninth session.

Resolution 48/2
Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS**

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling the goals and targets set forth in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[35] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, in 2001, and the HIV/AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000, in particular the aim of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS,[36]

Recalling also its resolution 47/1 of 10 March 2003 and the agreed conclusions adopted at its forty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)",

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 56-60.
** For the discussion, see chap. II.
[35] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.
[36] See General Assembly resolution 55/2, para. 19.

Recalling further the Declaration and Plan of Action contained in the final document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[37] and recognizing that their implementation is a major contribution to protecting the rights and promoting the well-being of children,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 58/236 of 23 December 2003, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS",

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/29 of 29 April 2003, entitled, "Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria",

Welcoming the launch, on February 2004, by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, which seeks to raise awareness of the effects of HIV/AIDS on women and girls and to stimulate and increase activity in the fight against HIV/AIDS,

Acknowledging that prevention, care, support and treatment for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response and must be integrated in a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic,

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and, in particular, women and children, are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV infection,

Deeply concerned that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects women and girls and that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people,

Concerned that women's unequal legal, economic and social status and violence against women and girls as well as other cultural and physiological factors increases their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS,

Also concerned that women and girls have different and unequal access to and use of health resources for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS,

1. *Stresses with deep concern* that the HIV/AIDS emergency, with its devastating scale and impact, requires urgent actions in all fields and at all levels;

2. *Stresses also* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and emphasizes that the advancement of women and girls is key to reversing the pandemic;

3. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, including civil society, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments on HIV/AIDS contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[35] and to work towards effectively reflecting in their national policies and strategies the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration;

[37] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

4. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to empower women and strengthen their economic independence and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

5. *Also urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender sensitive framework;

6. *Further urges* Governments to expand access to treatment, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic diseases and effective use of antiretroviral medication and to promote access to low-cost effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV/AIDS, including through challenging stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

8. *Encourages* the continued collaboration among the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations, to address and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and encourages the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in their work;

9. *Also welcomes* the commitment by the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to work with the international community to support developing countries in achieving the target of providing antiretroviral medicines to three million people infected with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2005, the "3 by 5" target;

10. *Encourages* the ongoing work by the United Nations system in providing widespread information on the gender dimension of the pandemic and in raising awareness about the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for the rapid scaling up of programmes for treatment to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission;

12. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes to enable men, including young men, to adopt safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of young men and women having access to information, education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection, in full participation with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

14. *Calls* for enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including through focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV/AIDS;

15. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV/AIDS, young people and civil society actors in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective and also to promote their full involvement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programmes;

16. *Welcomes* financial contributions made to date towards the Global Fund to Combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

17. *Calls upon* all Governments to take measures to ensure that the necessary resources are made available, in particular from donor countries and also from national budgets in line with the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General, to take a gender perspective into account when preparing the report requested in General Assembly resolution 58/236.

Resolution 48/3
Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts,

Recalling also the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of the civilian population as such,

Taking into account the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/146 of 17 December 1979, which recognizes that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

Reaffirming the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[38] as well as in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[39] and the outcome document of the special session of the Assembly on children entitled "A world fit for children",[40] including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children,

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 68-74.

[38] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

[39] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

[40] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2001/38 of 23 April 2001[41] and 2003/40 of 23 April 2003[42] on hostage-taking, as well as General Assembly resolution 57/220 of 18 December 2002,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women, peace and security,

Expressing grave concern at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they have caused,

Emphasizing that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population as such, including taking women and children hostage, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, in particular as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,[43]

Concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, inter alia, those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

Recognizing that hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community, in conformity with international humanitarian law and in accordance with international human rights standards, in order to bring such abhorrent practices to an end,

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as well as the outcome document of the special session of the Assembly on children entitled "A world fit for children", including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children,

1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable, including as a means to promote and protect human rights;

2. *Condemns* violent acts in contravention of international humanitarian law against the civilian population, as such, in areas of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, in particular the immediate release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts;

3. *Also condemns* the consequences of hostage-taking, in particular torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, murder, rape, slavery, and trafficking in women and children for the purpose of subjecting them to sexual exploitation or imposing forced labour or services;

4. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law in armed conflict and to take all necessary measures

---

[41] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 3* (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[42] Ibid., *2003, Supplement No. 3* (E/2003/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[43] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

for the protection of the civilian population, as such, and to release immediately all women and children who have been taken hostage;

5. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for those women and children in accordance with international humanitarian law;

6. *Stresses* both the need to put an end to impunity and the responsibility of all States to prosecute in accordance with international law those responsible for war crimes, including hostage-taking;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of objective, responsible and impartial information on hostages, verifiable by relevant international organizations, in facilitating their release, and calls for assistance to these organizations in this regard;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, within the context of the present resolution, the widest possible dissemination of relevant material, in particular material relating to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), within existing resources;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and undertake efforts to facilitate the immediate release of civilian women and children who have been taken hostage;

10. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations;

11. *Decides* to consider the question at its fiftieth session.

Resolution 48/4
Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling its resolutions 45/2 of 17 March 2001, 46/3 of 15 March 2002 and 47/2 of 13 March 2003, Economic and Social Council resolutions 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, 2002/23 of 24 July 2002 and 2003/49 of 24 July 2003 and General Assembly resolutions 56/132 of 19 December 2001, 57/182 of 18 December 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002 and 58/148 of 22 December 2003,

Welcoming the United Nations Millennium Declaration[44] and its call for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Welcoming also the inclusion of a sub-item in the agenda of the Economic and Social Council entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system" and the opportunity such inclusion provides to consider further measures to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system,

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 75-80.
[44] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Welcoming further the decision of the Economic and Social Council to devote a coordination segment in 2004 to a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system,[45]

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality, which requires making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated,

Reaffirming also that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[46] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[47]

Recognizing that enhancing women's opportunities, potential and activities requires a dual focus, namely, programmes aimed at meeting the basic as well as the specific needs of women for capacity-building, organizational development and empowerment, together with gender mainstreaming in all programme formulation and implementation activities,

Expressing its concern that gender equality is not yet fully integrated into the work of the United Nations,

Underlining the catalytic role of the Commission in promoting gender mainstreaming,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming gender perspectives in entities of the United Nations system;[48]

2. *Also welcomes* the ongoing activities undertaken and efforts made by entities of the United Nations system to promote an active and visible policy of gender mainstreaming;

3. *Expresses its concern* at the remaining constraints on the full implementation of gender mainstreaming into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system, including inadequate support for and follow-up of gender equality policies and strategies, poor utilization of gender analysis, inadequate monitoring mechanisms and a number of ongoing critical institutional constraints;

4. *Invites* all entities of the United Nations system, in pursuit of governmental and intergovernmental commitments to gender mainstreaming and gender equality goals, to:

---

[45] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3), chap. IV, para. 4.

[46] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 96.IV.13).

[47] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and S-23/3.

[48] E/CN.6/2004/3.

(a) Increase the exchange of experiences, good practice, tools and methods in respect of gender mainstreaming through, inter alia, the more effective utilization of existing networks, and, within existing mandates, to incorporate gender perspectives in inter-agency coordination in all areas;

(b) Link existing gender equality policies to organizational goals, develop and strengthen strategies and action plans to support the implementation of such policies and assess the impact of such policies and strategies so that constraints on their full implementation may be identified and addressed;

(c) Integrate gender perspectives into organizational policies and sectoral policies and strategies, inter alia, through increased attention to gender perspectives in relevant medium-term plans and programme budgets;

(d) Increase the capacity for and better utilize gender analysis at both policy and programme levels, inter alia, through integrating gender perspectives more fully into existing analyses, mechanisms and tools and improve mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on the practical implementation of the incorporation of gender perspectives into programmes;

(e) Ensure that gender specialists and focal points have access to information, adequate resources and explicit support from management at various levels and strengthen the commitment and leadership role of managers in the gender mainstreaming process;

(f) Incorporate gender perspectives into all existing training programmes, assess the impact of such training programmes and develop strategies to improve their effectiveness where necessary, inter alia, through focusing resources on training specifically tailored to the needs of participants and on follow-up processes;

(g) Increase the involvement of men in promoting the implementation of gender mainstreaming, including as specialists, focal points and trainers;

(h) Require sex-disaggregation of all relevant data and the collection of gender-specific information as the basis for all policy analysis;

(i) Continue to support Governments in their efforts to implement gender mainstreaming;

5. *Recommends* to the Economic and Social Council that it incorporate into its review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2, the assessment of the remaining gaps in the frameworks for gender equality policies and strategies and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all policies and programmes of the entities of the United Nations, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include an assessment of the implementation of the present resolution in his report to the Commission at its forty-ninth session on the measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming gender perspectives in entities of the United Nations system.

Resolution 48/5
Preparations for the forty-ninth session of the Commission*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Underlining the significance of its forty-ninth session, which will mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[49] the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[50] and the thirtieth anniversary of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held in Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975,

Noting that the Commission will undertake, at its forty-ninth session, a review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and consider current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls,

Building upon its agreed conclusions 1996/1,[51] and taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/27 of 26 July 2001 and General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003,

Considering the special nature of the task before the Commission at its forty-ninth session,

1. *Decides* to focus on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly through the expanded use of interactive dialogue, with broad-based participation of governmental delegations at the highest level of responsibility and expertise and of civil society and organizations within the United Nations system, bearing in mind the need to integrate a gender perspective in the implementation and review of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[52]

2. *Also decides* to emphasize the sharing of experiences and good practices on overcoming remaining challenges to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

3. *Further decides* to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it recommend to the General Assembly the convening of a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to which the Commission on the Status of Women will transfer its general debate, during its forty-ninth session, on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 81-85.

[49] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[50] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[51] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 6* (E/1996/26), chap. I, sect. C.

[52] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

4. *Requests* its Bureau, in preparation for the forty-ninth session of the Commission, to take into account the views expressed by the representatives at its forty-eighth session and to continue the practice of periodically convening meetings of the Bureau open to the participation of all interested States.

Decision 48/101
Working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women*

The Commission on the Status of Women, having examined, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/27 of 26 July 2001, and noting its past efforts to enhance its methods of work, decides:

(a) To enhance the use at its annual sessions of interactive events that will increase the emphasis of the Commission on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[53] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the sharing of experience and good practices;

(b) To further explore options for the multi-year programme of work, bearing in mind, inter alia, the experience gained by other functional commissions, with the goal of improving the effectiveness and flexibility of the Commission on the Status of Women; in this regard, the Commission may wish to consider reducing both the number of thematic issues and the use of agreed conclusions per session;

(c) To explore ways to make better use of its standing agenda item on emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men; any inclusion of emerging issues would take into account the framework of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and would be on the basis of agreed and transparent procedures for selection and consideration by Member States;

(d) To continue discussion of these issues during the forty-ninth session of the Commission.

Decision 48/102
Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 3**

At its 16th meeting, on 12 March 2004, the Commission on the Status of Women took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women in the context of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;[54]

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 86-88.

** For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 95-96.

[53] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[54] E/CN.6/2004/2.

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts;[55]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;[56]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women;[57]

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality;[58]

(f) Note by the Secretariat on the proposals for the Secretary-General's strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007.[59]

Decision 48/103
Future work of the Working Group on Communications*

The Commission on the Status of Women decides to postpone further consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women,[60] and the different views and proposals put forward by Member States during the debate on the item until its fiftieth session.

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 5-14.
[55] E/CN.4/2004/6 and Corr.1.
[56] E/CN.4/2004/65-E/CN.6/2004/7.
[57] E/CN.6/2004/8 and Corr.1-E/CN.4/2004/117 and Corr.1.
[58] E/CN.6/2004/9.
[59] E/CN.6/2004/CRP.5.
[60] E/CN.6/2004/11 and Add.1 and 2.

Chapter II

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

1. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd to 10th and 12th to 15th meetings, from 1 to 5 March and 9 to 12 March 2004. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women in the context of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields (E/CN.6/2004/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming gender perspectives in entities of the United Nations system (E/CN.6/2004/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2004/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (E/CN.6/2004/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2004/6 and Corr.1);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2004/65-E/CN.6/2004/7);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women (E/CN.6/2004/8-E/CN.4/2004/117 and Corr.1);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality (E/CN.6/2004/9);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building (E/CN.6/2004/10);

(j) Letter dated 4 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2004/13);

(k) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2004/NGO/1-42 and corrigenda);

(l) Note by the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women: discussion guide on the Commission on the Status of Women high-level round table (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.1);

(m) Note by the Secretariat on the comprehensive review and appraisal of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" in 2005 (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.2);

(n) Note by the Secretary-General on the results of the thirtieth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.3);

(o) Note by the Secretary-General on the preparation of the 2004 *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.4);

(p) Note by the Secretariat on proposals for the Secretary-General's strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.5);

(q) Note by the Secretariat on enhancing women's participation in electoral processes in post-conflict countries (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.7).

2. At its 2nd and at its 6th to 9th meetings, on 1, 3 and 4 March, the Commission held a general discussion on agenda item 3.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 March, the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed the Commission.

4. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

5. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights.

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, Turkey, Albania, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Iceland), Botswana, Qatar (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), France, Finland and Morocco.

7. At the 6th meeting, on 3 March, the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women presented an oral report on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), Algeria, Canada, China, Denmark, Japan, Bolivia, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Argentina, Guatemala, Botswana and the Russian Federation as well as by the observers for Namibia, Norway, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Angola, Venezuela, Iraq, Portugal, Fiji, New Zealand and Ghana.

9. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

10. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the World Bank.

11. At the 7th meeting, on 3 March, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, the Congo, South Africa, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Croatia, Benin and the Russian Federation, and by observers for Afghanistan, Ghana, Switzerland, Kuwait, Guyana, Myanmar, Iceland, Sweden, Liechtenstein and Kazakhstan.

12. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

13. A statement was made by the representative of the regional commissions.

14. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

15. At the 8th meeting, on 4 March, statements were made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Azerbaijan, Cuba, Malaysia, Tunisia, Burkina Faso, Kyrgyzstan, the Dominican Republic, Nigeria and Armenia, and by the observers for Italy, the Syrian Arab Republic, Bangladesh, Egypt, the Philippines, Australia, Jordan and Senegal.

16. A statement was made by the observer for the Holy See.

17. Statements were made by the representatives of the International Organization for Migration, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

18. At the 9th meeting, on 4 March, statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, Guinea, Nicaragua, Brazil (on behalf of the Rio Group) and Gabon and by the observers for Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Viet Nam, Ethiopia, Zambia, Cameroon, Suriname, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Barbados and Mali.

19. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

20. Statements were made by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations and caucuses: Project Five-O; Coalition of Islamic Organizations; NGO Caucus on Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution, and in Post-conflict Peace-building; Labour Caucus; World Vision; International African Women's Caucus; Women in Law and Development in Africa; Femmes Africa Solidarité; and International Possibilities Unlimited.

Agenda item 3 (a)
Review of gender mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system

Comprehensive review and appraisal of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

21. At the 10th meeting, on 5 March 2004, the Commission held an exchange of views, under the sub-item on the question of the comprehensive review and appraisal of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

22. Statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Cuba, India, Australia, the United States of America, China, the Sudan, Japan, the Congo, Algeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa, and by the observers for Qatar (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), New Zealand, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), Namibia, Switzerland and Suriname.

23. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women responded to questions raised.

A. High-level round table of the Commission on the Status of Women on the gaps and challenges in measuring progress implementation, in the context of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session in 2005

24. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 March, the Commission held a high-level round table on the gaps and challenges in measuring progress implementation, in the context of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session in 2005, in which the following delegations took part: Botswana, Pakistan, Sweden, Namibia, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), Finland, Armenia, Norway, Azerbaijan, the Philippines, Cuba, China, Canada, Australia, Algeria, Morocco, Zambia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Spain, Guatemala, India, Angola, the United Republic of Tanzania, South Africa, the Netherlands, Kenya, the Congo, Argentina, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Benin, Thailand, Indonesia and Croatia.

25. The Co-Chairperson (Vice-Chairperson of the Statistical Commission, Ms. Katherine Wallman (United States of America)) made a statement, after which statements were made by the representatives of the following States in their capacity as members of the Statistical Commission: the Republic of Korea, Finland, South Africa and the United States of America.

26. Statements were also made by the representatives of UNICEF, the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNESCO and the World Health Organization (WHO).

27. A statement was made by the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

28. A statement was also made by the representative of the Statistical Division of the United Nations.

29. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations made statements: Development Alternatives for Women for a New Era; Mahila Dkshata Samita; and Oxfam-Great Britain.

30. At the 16th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission decided to include the Chairperson's summary of the high-level round table (E/CN.6/2003/CRP.11) in the report of the Commission (see annex I).

Panel discussions on agenda item 3 (c)

B. Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

31. At its 4th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and dialogue on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building (agenda item 3 (c) (ii)).

32. Presentations were made by the following experts: Ms. Nancy Rocio Tapias Torredo (Colombia), consultant on the gender issues oversight, Presidential Advisory Council for the Equality of Women; Ms. Lois Lewis Bruthus (Liberia), Director-General of the Organization for Children and Adolescent Mothers; Ms. Ariane Brunet (Canada), responsible for programming women's human rights at Rights and Democracy, a non-partisan organization with an international mandate; Ms. Amal Adib Sabbagh (Jordan), Secretary-General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women; and Mr. Yusuf Mahmoud, Director, Africa II Division, Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat.

33. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panel of experts, in which the following delegations participated: Croatia, Namibia, Norway, Senegal, Chile, Canada, Pakistan, Cuba, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), Ghana, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Tunisia, Sweden, Zambia, Japan, the Congo and Azerbaijan.

34. The representative of the International Organization for Migration, an intergovernmental organization, also participated in the dialogue.

35. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council participated in the dialogue: Empowering Widows in Development; Human Rights Advocates; and Institute of Objective Studies.

36. At the 16th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission decided to include the Moderator's summary of the panel discussion (E/CN.6/2003/CRP.9) in the report of the Commission (see annex II).

C. The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

37. At its 5th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and dialogue on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality (agenda item 3 (c) (i)).

38. Presentations were made by the following experts: Robert Connell (Australia), Professor, School of Policy and Practice, University of Sydney; Jorge Lyra (Brazil), founder of the PAPAI Institute, doctoral candidate in public health and expert in adolescent fathers; Njoki Wainaina (Kenya), freelance consultant in gender training, programming and policy and co-founder of the Network of African Men against Gender-based Violence and Bertil Lindblad, Deputy Director, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, New York office.

39. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panel of experts, in which the following delegations participated: Suriname, Mauritania, Norway, Malaysia, India, Guatemala, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Canada, Cuba, Israel, Algeria, Botswana, Thailand, South Africa, Senegal, Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), Croatia, Ghana, the Philippines, the Congo, Mexico, Rwanda, China, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

40. The representative of UNESCO also participated in the dialogue.

41. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council participated in the dialogue: Women's National Commissions of the United Kingdom; Human Rights Advocates; and International Council of Women.

42. At the 16th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission decided to include the Moderator's summary of the panel discussion (E/CN.6/2003/CRP.10) in the report of the Commission (see annex III).

Action taken by the Commission

Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

43. At the 12th meeting, on 9 March, the observer for Ireland, on behalf of Austria,[1] Belgium,[1] Bulgaria,[1] Cyprus,[1] Czech Republic,[1] Denmark, Estonia,[1] Finland,[1] France,[1] Germany, Greece,[1] Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta,[1] Netherlands, Poland,[1] Portugal,[1] Slovakia,[1] Slovenia,[1] Spain,[1] Sweden[1], United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Andorra,[1] Canada, Chile, Croatia, Republic of Korea, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan" (E/CN.6/2004/L.1). The draft resolution read as follows:

> "*The Economic and Social Council,*
>
> "*Guided* by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

[1] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Discrimination against Women, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, accepted humanitarian rules as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and other instruments of human rights and international law,

"*Recalling* that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, the Conventions of 12 August 1949, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

"*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

"*Recalling* the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security, and 1460 (2003), on children and armed conflict, and in this context recognizing the recent Security Council mission to Afghanistan, from 13 October to 8 November 2003, which reviewed, inter alia, the humanitarian and human rights situation of women,

"*Welcoming* the entry into force on 26 January 2004 of a new Constitution following the successful outcome of the Constitutional Loya Jirga, at which women played a prominent and crucial role, while also welcoming particularly the provisions of the new Constitution which state that the citizens of Afghanistan, whether men or women, are equal before the law and that at least two women are to be elected to the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) from each province, as a national average, and which provide for half of the President's nominees to the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) to be women,

"*Welcoming also* the continuing commitment of the Afghan Transitional Administration to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, to the restoration of the active participation of Afghan women in political, economic and social life, to the education of girls as well as boys and to the opportunity for women to work outside the home,

"*Welcoming further* the fact that the Back-to-School campaign launched by the Ministry of Education and the United Nations Children's Fund has been a major success and 4.2 million children are now enrolled in school, while recognizing the need for the enrolment rate of girls in school to improve considerably,

"*Welcoming* the inclusion of women in the Transitional Administration, the Judicial Reform Commission, the Independent Human Rights Commission,

the Constitutional Commission and the Secretariat of the Constitutional Loya Jirga, and stressing the importance of the full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes regarding the future of Afghanistan,

"*Welcoming also* the fact that the National Development Framework of the Transitional Administration reflects the needs of, and the importance of the role to be taken by, women and girls in the process of peace-building, reconstruction and development, and welcoming in this regard the assistance provided by the international community to achieve these goals,

"*Welcoming further* the efforts of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries, which host millions of Afghan refugees, especially women and children, and have provided humanitarian assistance in many areas, such as education, health and other basic services,

"*Recognizing* that, in spite of recent improvements, women in Afghanistan continue to face gross violations of their rights in many parts of the country and in particular in rural areas,

"*Recognizing also* that Afghan women are primary stakeholders and agents of change, who must have the opportunity to identify their own needs, interests and priorities in all sectors of society as full partners in the rebuilding of their society,

"*Strongly emphasizing* that a safe environment, free from violence, discrimination and abuse, for all Afghans, is essential for a viable and sustainable recovery and reconstruction process,

"1. *Welcomes*:

"(a) The ongoing commitments made by the Afghan Transitional Authority to recognize, protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to respect and promote respect for international humanitarian law;

"(b) The provision of the new Constitution which states that the citizens of Afghanistan, whether men or women, are equal before the law;

"(c) The ratification by the Afghan Transitional Administration of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on 5 March 2003;

"(d) The ongoing security sector reform processes being undertaken by the Afghanistan Transitional Administration with the support of the international community, including the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants and the recruitment of a new cadre of women police;

"2. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan;

"3. *Urges* the Afghan Transitional Administration and future Government:

"(a) To ensure that any legislative, administrative and other measures support the full enjoyment by women and girls of human rights and

fundamental freedoms, including by mainstreaming gender issues into the activities of all Afghanistan Transitional Administration ministries;

"(b) To enable the full, equal and effective participation of women and girls in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country at all levels;

"(c) To protect the right to freedom of movement, expression and association for women and girls;

"(d) To implement fully the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and prepare the initial report due in March 2004 and to raise awareness and strengthen the knowledge of women and girls and their families about their rights, including the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls;

"(e) To ensure that the provisions of the new Constitution are implemented fully so as to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women;

"(f) To ensure that the electoral processes are carried out and monitored closely to make certain that women are able to register, participate fully and support special measures that would guarantee that they are represented in local, provincial and national government positions;

"(g) To ensure that the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the permanent Afghan judicial institutions have adequate human and financial resources to fulfil their mandates and address gender perspectives in line with international standards;

"(h) To continue its efforts to re-establish the rule of law, in accordance with international standards, inter alia, by ensuring that law enforcement agencies respect and uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a particular emphasis on access to justice for women;

"(i) To continue its efforts to reflect a gender perspective in the training and activities of its police, army, prosecutors and judiciary and to promote the recruitment of Afghan women in all ranks;

"(j) To review and improve the practices of law enforcement personnel when dealing with women victims of violence, particularly those accused of offences based on tradition or imprisoned for social reasons, to protect them from domestic and sexual violence and with regard to trafficking;

"(k) To raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate violence, including domestic and sexual violence, against women, with the aim of changing the attitudes and behaviour that allow such crimes to take place, and strengthen efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women by using legislative measures;

"(l) To ensure that gender-sensitive approaches are applied in the development and application of procedures during data collection for the census and the registration of voters to deliver universal suffrage and the full participation of women in the national elections in 2004;

"(m) To ensure the equal rights of women and girls to education, the effective functioning of schools throughout the country and the admission of women and girls to all levels of education, free from attack, and support the educational needs of those women and girls who were excluded from education in the past;

"(n) To respect the equal right of women to work and promote their reintegration in employment in all sectors and at all levels of Afghan society;

"(o) To protect the equal right of women and girls to security of person and to bring to justice those responsible for violence against women and girls;

"(p) To continue demobilization and disarmament and facilitate the reintegration of women and girls, who have been affected by war, into society and work;

"(q) To ensure the effective and equal access of women and girls, on the basis of equality among all Afghans, to the facilities necessary to protect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, in accordance with the obligations of Afghanistan under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

"(r) To ensure the equal right of women to own land and other property, inter alia, through the right to inheritance, and undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to and control over natural resources as well as access to markets and information;

"(s) To consider implementing gender budgeting in the national budget and in all budgets of line ministries;

"(t) To ensure that Afghan women are well represented at the upcoming Berlin conference and that during the conference adequate attention is given to issues relating to the rights of women and girls;

"(u) To support measures to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls and to hold accountable those who were responsible for gross violations of human rights in the past and to ensure that full investigations are conducted and perpetrators brought to justice, in accordance with international standards, in order to combat impunity;

"4. *Encourages* the continuing efforts of the United Nations and its agencies, donors and civil society, guided by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000):

"(a) To provide financial and technical assistance, including support to the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls so as to strengthen the capacity of Afghan women to participate fully and effectively in conflict resolution and peace-building efforts and in civil, political, economic, cultural and social life;

"(b) To support fully the Afghan Transitional Authority regarding the participation of women in society, inter alia, by providing support to ministries to develop their capacity to mainstream gender issues into their programmes;

"(c) To support capacity-building for Afghan women to enable them to participate fully in all sectors, with special emphasis on ensuring women's participation and representation in all aspects of the electoral process leading to elections later this year;

"(d) To provide technical and other relevant assistance so that the judicial system has the capacity to adhere to international standards of human rights;

"5. *Invites* the United Nations system, international and non-governmental organizations, and donors:

"(a) To ensure a human rights-based approach and coherent policy and resources for gender mainstreaming in all programmes and operations, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, and to ensure that women benefit equally with men from such programmes in all sectors;

"(b) To ensure the full and effective participation of Afghan women in all stages of humanitarian assistance, recovery, reconstruction and development, including planning, programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

"(c) To support the elements of civil society active in the field of human rights and encourage the involvement of women therein;

"(d) To ensure that all their international and national personnel, prior to beginning their service, receive training in gender equality as well as appropriate training in the history, culture and traditions of Afghanistan and are fully familiar with and guided by international standards of human rights;

"(e) To integrate efforts to improve the health status of women within all reconstruction efforts, especially through access to skilled prenatal care, increasing access to skilled birth attendance, education programmes on basic health issues, community information activities and emergency obstetric care;

"(f) To continue to support measures for the employment of women and the integration of a gender perspective into all social, development and reconstruction programmes, taking into account the special needs of widows and returning refugee and displaced women and girls as well as those living in rural areas;

"6. *Strongly urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that the important post of Senior Gender Adviser in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan is filled immediately and with due regard to the need for continuity in this task;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

44. At the 14th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/2004/L.1/Rev.1), submitted by Andorra,[1] Austria,[1] Belgium,[1] Bosnia and Herzegovina,[1] Bulgaria,[1] Canada, Chile, Cyprus,[1] Czech Republic,[1] Denmark, Estonia,[1] Finland,[1] France,[1] Germany, Greece,[1] Guatemala,[1]

Hungary,[1] Iceland,[1] Ireland,[1] Italy,[1] Japan, Latvia,[1] Lithuania,[1] Luxembourg,[1] Malta,[1] Netherlands, Poland,[1] Portugal,[1] Serbia and Montenegro,[1] Slovakia,[1] Slovenia,[1] Spain,[1] Sweden,[1] the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,[1] Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan.[1]

45. At the same meeting, Argentina, Croatia, Liechtenstein, Norway, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Romania and Thailand joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

46. Also at the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme implications.

47. Also at the 14th meeting, the Commission approved the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

48. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

49. At the 12th meeting, on 9 March, the observer for Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" (E/CN.6/2004/L.2) and orally revised it in the seventh preambular paragraph, by replacing the words "concerned also that the construction of a wall by Israel" with the words "concerned also that the route marked out for the wall under construction by Israel".

50. At the 14th meeting, on 11 March, the observer for Qatar orally revised operative paragraph 7 as follows:

(a) The words "including those laid out in the report of the Secretary-General" were revised to read "including those laid out in his report";

(b) The words "a report based on information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia" was revised to read "a report including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia".

51. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme implications.

52. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the draft resolution, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 39 to 1, with 1 abstention and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Germany, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Malaysia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Canada.

53. A statement in explanation of vote before the vote was made by the representative of the United States of America; statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of Argentina, the Russian Federation, Canada and Peru.

54. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the observer for Israel; after the vote, a statement was made by the observer for Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

55. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was also made by the observer for Palestine.

Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

56. At the 13th meeting, on 10 March, the observer for Qatar, on behalf of the States Member that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and Mexico, introduced the draft resolution entitled "Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" (E/CN.6.2004/L.3), which read as follows:

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Recalling* all relevant General Assembly resolutions on the revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 2003/57 of 24 July 2003, in which it decided to amend the statute of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

"*Welcoming* the establishment of an Executive Board composed of ten Member States as a new governing body of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

"*Taking note* of the diverse activities developed by the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women aimed to implement a feasible work programme and fund-raising activities,

"1. *Decides* to continue to provide its full support to the current efforts to revitalize the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;

"2. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;

"3. *Stresses* the critical importance of voluntary financial contributions by Member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International

Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to enable it to carry out its mandate;

"4. *Urges* Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund, particularly during this critical transitional period;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all the United Nations system to continue and to strengthen their support to the current efforts to revitalize the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in particular throughout its full and active integration in the promotion and advocacy of mainstreaming the gender perspective into the United Nations system;

"6. *Decides* to continue to consider the progress of the revitalization of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women during its substantive session of 2004."

57. At the 14th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it the text of a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/2004/L.3/Rev.1) submitted by Qatar on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and Mexico.

58. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme implications.

59. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, draft resolution 48/1).

60. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representative of the Dominican Republic and the observer for Qatar (on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

61. At the 12th meeting, on 9 March, the observer for Angola,[1] on behalf of Benin,[1] Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon,[1] Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo,[1] Gabon,[1] Ghana,[1] Kenya,[1] Lesotho, Mali,[1] Malawi, Mozambique,[1] Namibia,[1] Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda,[1] Senegal,[1] Somalia,[1] South Africa, Timor-Leste,[1] United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia[1] and Zimbabwe,[1] introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS" (E/CN.2/2004/L.4). Subsequently, Algeria, Cape Verde,[1] Chile[1] and Thailand joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"*The Commission on the Status of Women*,

"*Recalling* the goals and targets set forth in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session, in 2001,

"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, in particular the aim of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS,

"*Recalling further* its resolution 47/1 of 10 March 2003, entitled 'Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)',

"*Recalling* the agreed conclusions adopted at its forty-sixth session, entitled 'Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)',

"*Recalling also* the Declaration and Plan of Action contained in the final document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled 'A world fit for children', and recognizing that their implementation is a major contribution to protecting the rights and promoting the well-being of children,

"*Welcoming* General Assembly resolution 58/236 of 23 December 2003, entitled 'Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS',

"*Noting* with grave concern that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people and that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the pandemic,

"*Noting also* that women's unequal legal and social status heightens their vulnerability to HIV,

"*Recognizing* that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and in particular women and children, are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV infection,

"*Deeply concerned* that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, through its devastating scale and impact, constitutes a global emergency, and that it disproportionately affects women and girls, and emphasizing that violence against women and girls as well as social, cultural, biological and economic factors can increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS,

"1. *Stresses* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and emphasizes that the advancement of women and girls is key to reversing the pandemic;

"2. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, to continue to implement the commitments on HIV/AIDS contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and to work towards effectively reflecting in their national policies and strategies the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration;

"3. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to strengthen women's economic independence and to protect and promote their human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to allow them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

"4. *Also urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender sensitive framework;

"5. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to challenge gender stereotypes, stigmatization, attitudes and gender inequalities in relation to HIV/AIDS and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys;

"6. *Encourages* the continued collaboration and cooperation of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations agencies to cope with the growing links between HIV/AIDS and other humanitarian programmes;

"7. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date towards the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

"8. *Also welcomes* the commitment by the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to work with the international community to support developing countries in achieving the target of providing antiretroviral medicines to 3 million people infected with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2005, the '3 by 5' target, recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/29 of 29 April 2003, entitled 'Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria';

"9. *Encourages* the ongoing work by the United Nations system in providing widespread information on the gender dimension of the pandemic and in raising awareness about the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS;

"10. *Emphasizes* the rapid scaling up of programmes for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and ensuring that levels of uptake are sufficient to achieve the desired public health impact and encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission;

"11. *Reaffirms* the importance of young men and women having access to information, education, including peer education and youth specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection, in full participation with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

"12. *Calls* for enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including through focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV/AIDS;

"13. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV/AIDS, young people and civil society actors in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects;

"14. *Calls upon* all Governments to take measures to ensure that the necessary resources are made available, in particular from donor countries and also from national budgets in line with the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

"15. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in his comprehensive and analytical report on progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, in particular those set out for 2005, with a view to identifying problems and constraints and making recommendations on action needed to make further progress as requested in General Assembly resolution 58/236, to take a gender perspective fully into account."

62. At the 16th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission had before it the text of a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/2004/L.4/Rev.1), submitted by Angola, on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana,[1] Guinea, Greece, Guyana, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Lesotho,[1] Malawi, Mozambique,[1] Namibia,[1] Peru, Portugal, Rwanda,[1] Senegal, Somalia,[1] South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste,[1] Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia[1] and Zimbabwe.[1]

63. At the same meeting, the representative of Angola (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community) made a statement.

64. Also at the same meeting, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

65. The Commission was informed that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

66. At the same meeting, the Commission then adopted the revised draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 48/2).

67. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of India.

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

68. At the 12th meeting, on 9 March, the observer for Azerbaijan, on behalf of Armenia, Bangladesh,[1] Belarus,[1] Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina,[1] Burkina Faso, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan,[1] Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar,[1] Turkey, Ukraine[1] and Uzbekistan[1] as well as Armenia, Belarus, Pakistan, Qatar and Ukraine, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts" (E/CN.6/2004/L.5). Subsequently, Algeria, Egypt,[1] Georgia,[1] Guinea, Kuwait,[1] Kyrgyzstan,[1] Nigeria, Peru, Philippines,[1] Republic of Moldova,[1] Saudi Arabia[1] and Senegal[1] joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

69. At the 14th meeting, on 11 March, the representative of Azerbaijan orally revised paragraph 7 as follows: the words "objective, responsible and impartial information on hostages, verifiable by relevant international organizations, in

facilitating their release, and calls for assistance to these organizations in this regard" were inserted after the words "Emphasizes the importance of".

70. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

71. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the fourth preambular paragraph, by a vote of 41 to 1. The voting was as follows:[2]

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Against:

United States of America.

72. The representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

73. After the adoption of the fourth preambular paragraph, a statement was made by the representative of Azerbaijan.

74. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, draft resolution 48/3).

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

75. At the 13th meeting, on 10 March, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of Australia[1], Austria,[1] Azerbaijan, Bangladesh,[1] Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria,[1] Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic,[1] Democratic Republic of the Congo,[1] Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland,[1] France,[1] Germany, Greece,[1] Guatemala, Hungary,[1] Iceland,[1] India, Indonesia, Ireland,[1] Italy,[1] Japan, Latvia,[1] Liechtenstein,[1] Luxembourg,[1] Mali,[1] Malta,[1] Mexico,[1] Netherlands, New Zealand,[1] Nigeria, Norway,[1] Peru, Poland,[1] Portugal,[1] Republic of Korea, Senegal,[1] Slovakia,[1] Slovenia,[1] Spain,[1] Sweden,[1] Switzerland,[1] Thailand, Timor-Leste,[1] Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America, as well as Andorra, Angola, Guinea, Malaysia, San Marino, South Africa, Turkey and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" (E/CN.6/2004/L.6) and orally revised it by deleting operative paragraph 3, which had read:

> "*Takes note with appreciation* of the assessment, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, of the remaining gaps in frameworks for gender equality policies and strategies and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives

[2] The representative of Malaysia subsequently indicated that had his delegation been present, it would have voted in favour of the fourth preambular paragraph.

into all policies and programmes of the entities of the United Nations, and of the role and effectiveness of existing institutional mechanisms;".

76. At the 16th meeting, on 12 March, a statement was made by the observer for Bangladesh.

77. At the same meeting, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia, Botswana, the Congo, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Guinea, Jamaica, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Malaysia, Morocco, Namibia, Qatar, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, South Africa, Suriname, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

78. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

79. The Commission then adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, draft resolution 48/4).

80. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Tunisia (on behalf of the African States Group).

Preparations for the forty-ninth session of the Commission

81. At its 16th meeting, on 12 March 2004, the Commission had before it draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the forty-ninth session of the Commission" submitted by the Bureau of the Commission on the basis of informal consultations.

82. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

83. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission (Carmen-Rosa Arias (Peru)) orally revised operative paragraph 3 by replacing the words "the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session will transfer its general debate" with the words "the Commission on the Status of Women will transfer its general debate during its forty-ninth session".

84. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, draft resolution 48/5).

85. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Malaysia.

Working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women

86. At its 16th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled "Working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women" submitted by the Bureau of the Commission (see E/CN.6/2004/L.13).

87. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

88. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, draft decision 48/101).

Draft agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

89. At its 16th meeting, on 12 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Béatrice Maillé (Canada) reported on the outcome of consultations held on agenda item 3 (c) (i) and introduced draft agreed conclusions on the sub-item, which were contained in an informal paper.

90. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-Chairperson, Ms. Maillé, and requested their endorsement by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III).

91. After the adoption of the draft agreed conclusions, a statement was made by the observer for Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union).

Draft agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

92. At its 16th meeting, on 12 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Tebatso Baleseng (Botswana), reported on the outcome of consultations held on agenda item 3 (c) (ii) and introduced draft agreed conclusions on the sub-item, which were contained in an informal paper.

93. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-Chairperson, Ms. Baleseng, and requested their endorsement by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV).

94. After the adoption of the agreed conclusions, statements were made by the representative of Argentina and by the observer for Qatar (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and Ireland (on behalf of the European Union).

Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 3

95. At its 16th meeting, on 12 March 2004, the Commission on the Status of Women took note of the following documents under agenda item 3:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women in the context of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields (E/CN.6/2004/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2004/6 and Corr.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2004/65-E/CN.6/2004/7);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women (E/CN.6/2004/8-E/CN.4/2004/117 and Corr.1);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the thematic issue before the Commission: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality (E/CN.6/2004/9);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building (E/CN.6/2004/10).

96. After the adoption of the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, draft decision 48/102), statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan, Pakistan and the observer for Saudi Arabia.

Chapter III
Communications concerning the status of women

1. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 10th, 11th (closed), 12th, 14th, 15th (closed) and 16th meetings on 5, 9, 11 and 12 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2004/SW/ Communications List No. 38) and the report of the Secretary-General on the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2004/11 and Add.1 and 2).

2. Under agenda item 4, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed to the working group:

Ms. Marine **Davtyan** (Armenia)

Ms. Nicole **Elisha** (Benin)

Ms. Miho **Ohashi** (Japan)

Mr. Alberto **d'Alotto** (Argentina)

Mr. Martin **Thuemmel** (Germany)

3. At its 10th meeting, on 5 March, the Director, Division for the Advancement of Women, introduced the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2004/11 and Add.1 and 2).

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of India, Cuba, Argentina, Pakistan, Algeria, Canada, Tunisia, the Russian Federation, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Thailand, the Sudan and Malaysia, and by the observers for Ireland (on behalf of the European Union), New Zealand, Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Action taken by the Commission

Communications concerning the status of women

5. At the 12th meeting, on 9 March, the representative of Guatemala, on behalf of Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand,[1] Peru, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced a draft resolution entitled "Communications concerning the status of women" (E/CN.6/2004/L.7). Subsequently, Kenya joined in sponsoring the draft resolution which read as follows:

> "The Commission on the Status of Women, recalling its decision 47/102 on the future status of its communications procedure, recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

[1] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

"Communications concerning the status of women

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Reaffirming* the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women as set out in its resolutions 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, 340 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, 1983/27 of 26 May 1983, 1992/19 of 30 June 1992 and 1993/11 of 27 July 1993,

"1. *Decides*, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission on the Status of Women more effective and efficient, to request the Secretary-General:

"(a) To renew his efforts to actively seek information and communications on the status of women received by the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other United Nations bodies, including human rights treaty bodies and special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights, together with information on action that may have been taken following the receipt of such communications, for the purpose of submitting it in his annual report on confidential and non-confidential communications to the Commission on the Status of Women;

"(b) To include the relevant parts of reports of treaty bodies and special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights in his annual report on confidential and non-confidential communications to the Commission on the Status of Women;

"2. *Reminds* treaty bodies and special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights to consistently give attention to gender equality in their reports, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/49 of 24 July 2003;

"3. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the future status of the communications procedure, the report of the Secretary-General and the different views expressed by Member States during the debate on the item at its forty-ninth session."

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of China, the Sudan, the Russian Federation and Guatemala.

7. At the 14th meeting, on 11 March, the observer for Tunisia[2] (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African States Group) introduced a draft decision entitled "Communications concerning the status of women", which was circulated in an informal paper and subsequently issued as E/CN.6/2004/L.11, which read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

[2] On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States and in accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

"Communications concerning the status of women

"The Economic and Social Council, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women, which, inter alia, includes the written views of Member States as well as the different views expressed by Member States during the preliminary discussion at the forty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and taking into account the consideration by the Commission at its forty-eighth session of the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women and the discussion concerning the status of women, decides that the Commission on the Status of Women will postpone consideration of the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women until its forty-ninth session."

8. At the 16th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission had before it proposed amendments to draft resolution E/CN.6/2004/L.7, submitted by the representative of China on behalf of Bangladesh,[1] China, Cuba, Egypt,[1] India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nigeria, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic[1] and Viet Nam.

9. At the same meeting, the Chairperson orally introduced a draft decision, which read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women

"*Decides* to postpone further consideration of the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women, the report of the Secretary-General and the different views and proposals put forward by Member States during debate on the item, until its fiftieth session."

10. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the oral decision.

11. In the light of the adoption of the oral draft decision, the Commission decided not to take action on draft resolution E/CN.6/2004/L.7 and the amendments contained in E/CN.6/2004/L.10 and draft decision E/CN.6/2004/L.11.

12. After the adoption of the oral draft decision, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands and by the observer for Tunisia (on behalf of the Group of African States).

Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

13. At its 11th and 15th meetings (closed) on 5 and 12 March 2004, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.8).

14. At the 15th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Working Group and agreed to include it in the report of the Commission. The report of the Working Group is as follows:

1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given to it by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, 1983/27 of 26 May 1983 and 1992/19 of 30 June 1992.

2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications and replies by Governments (E/CN.6/2004/SW/COMM.LIST/38 and Add.1). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women since no such communications had been received by the Secretary-General.

3. The Working Group considered the 15 confidential communications received directly by the Division for the Advancement of Women and the 7 confidential communications received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the status of women. The Working Group noted that one communication that had been selected from the 1503 procedure material had also been submitted directly to the Division for the Advancement of Women. It also took note of the fact that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received from other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.

4. The Working Group noted that there were replies from Governments to 5 of the 15 communications received by the Division for the Advancement of Women directly and replies to 6 of the 7 communications transmitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

5. The Working Group recalled its mandate, as defined in paragraph 4 of resolution 1983/27, which states that the Working Group is to meet in closed meetings during each session of the Commission in order that it may perform the following functions:

(a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments, which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

(b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of confidential and non-confidential communications, which will indicate the categories in which communications are most frequently submitted to the Commission.

6. The Working Group discerned the following categories in which communications were most frequently submitted to the Commission:

(a) Discriminatory application of punishments in law based on sex, including corporal and capital punishment;

(b) Sexual violence and threats of sexual violence against women, including rape, perpetrated by State agents such as members of the police and of the armed forces;

(c) Violations of the rights of female human rights defenders and women participating in political life, including arbitrary imprisonment, torture, rape and violations of their rights to freedom of expression and assembly;

(d) Violations of the rights of women belonging to ethnic or religious minorities, in particular widespread and systematic use of rape involving extreme brutality, sometimes resulting in death, committed with impunity, as well as discrimination against such women, for example in relation to access to health care;

(e) Violation of the human rights of women during armed conflict, including multiple rapes, sexual mutilation, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy and forced abortion;

(f) Acid attacks against women stemming, for example, from rejected offers of marriage and dowry or property disputes, the impunity of perpetrators and the inadequate response of the authorities;

(g) Violence, degrading treatment and discrimination based on religious beliefs against women prisoners committed by guards;

(h) Violations of the human rights of migrant women and trafficked women, including rape;

(i) Denial of visitation rights (visas) and humiliating treatment of spouses of foreign male inmates.

7. During its consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, and as to whether any of these appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women, the Working Group was concerned about:

(a) The application under law of certain forms of criminal punishment of women that constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in violation of international human rights standards;

(b) The application of criminal punishments based on sex, where only women are prosecuted for certain crimes or where women are sentenced to harsher punishments than men for committing the same crime, which constitutes a discriminatory practice against women;

(c) Lack of due diligence in investigating and prosecuting violence, including rape, against migrant women and women victims of trafficking; impunity and inadequate punishment for perpetrators of such violence and for persons who trafficked, procured or assisted in the trafficking of women; and lack of protection of victims during proceedings.

8. The Working Group suggests that the Commission on the Status of Women may wish to request the Economic and Social Council to remind States of the commitments they have made in the Beijing Platform for Action, in particular paragraph 232 (d), and in the General Assembly, in particular paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 57/176, to:

- Review national laws, including customary laws and legal practices in the areas of family, civil, penal, labour and commercial law in order to ensure the implementation of the principles and procedures of all relevant international human rights instruments by means of national legislation, revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex and remove gender bias in the administration of justice;
- Criminalize trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, in all its forms, condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, including intermediaries, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, while ensuring that the victims of those practices are not penalized for being trafficked, and penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody.

Chapter IV

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1. At its 9th meeting, on 4 March, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

2. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 11th meeting, on 5 March 2004. It had before it a letter dated 31 October 2003 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2004/12) and a note by the Secretariat on resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.6).

Action taken by the Commission

3. At the same meeting, the Commission authorized the Chairperson to draw the attention of the President of the Economic and Social Council to the above-mentioned note by the Secretariat (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.6) for the information of the Council's high-level segment in 2004.

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered agenda item 6 at its 14th meeting, on 11 March 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/2004/L.8), which was introduced by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

2. At the same meeting, the Commission recommended the draft provisional agenda for its forty-ninth session for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session

1. At its 16th meeting, on 12 March 2004, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session (E/CN.6/2004/L.9).

2. The Commission then adopted the draft report on its forty-eighth session and entrusted the Bureau with its completion.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its forty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters from 1 to 12 March 2004. The Commission held 16 meetings (1st to 16th).

2. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the forty-eighth session of the Commission, Ms. Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea), who also made a statement.

B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Election of officers

4. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should serve a term of office of two years. The following officers were elected at the first meeting of the forty-eighth session:

Chairperson:
Kyung-wha **Kang** (Republic of Korea)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Carmen-Rosa **Arias** (Peru)
Tebatso **Baleseng** (Botswana)
Beatrice **Maillé** (Canada)
Lala **Ibrahimova** (Azerbaijan)

Rapporteur:
Lala **Ibrahimova** (Azerbaijan)

D. Agenda and organization of work

5. At its 1st meeting, on 1 March 2004, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work as contained in document E/CN.6/2004/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

   (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;

   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

      (i) The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality;

      (ii) Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session.

E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

6. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed: Miho Ohashi (Japan), Marine Davtyan (Armenia), Nicole Elisha (Benin) Alberto d'Alotto (Argentina) and Mr. Martin Thuemell (Germany). The Working Group held six meetings.

Annex I

Panel discussion on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

Summary submitted by the moderator (Béatrice Maillé (Canada))

1. At its 5th meeting, on 2 March 2004, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality. The panellists were: Robert Connell (Australia), Professor, School of Policy and Practice, University of Sydney; Jorge Lyra (Brazil), co-founder of the PAPAI Institute, doctoral candidate and expert in adolescent fathers; Njoki Wainaina (Kenya), freelance consultant in gender training, programming and policy and co-founder of the Network of African Men against Gender-based Violence; and Bertil Lindblad, Deputy Director, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, New York office.

2. Participants agreed that men and boys had an important role in empowering women and achieving gender equality in the home, the community, the labour market and the workplace. Many men and boys were already supporting the promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women and were agents of change for a more gender-equal society. However, both direct and indirect factors hindered men's involvement on a large scale. While direct obstacles included gender-biased legislation and policies, such as those that denied men the right to paternity leave and opportunities to care for other family members, indirect factors included gender stereotypes and negative attitudes and behaviour. It was therefore crucial to create an enabling environment with proactive public policy to facilitate the sharing of power and of responsibilities at the family and community levels. Broader institutional changes were also required to enable men's and women's commitment to a new culture of gender equality. In such efforts, the diversity of men and boys should be taken into account.

3. Participants agreed that a gender-sensitive socialization process of both boys and girls from early childhood was critical to removing the persistent stereotypes and attitudes that continued to promote and perpetuate traditional roles of men and women. Such stereotypes often led to missed opportunities for women and men, sex-segregated labour markets, lack of economic and social well-being, a perception of female inferiority and lack of value attached to women's and girls' contributions. Participants recognized that both fathers and mothers played a vital role in challenging existing gender stereotypical attitudes and behaviour, which was a precondition for involving men and boys in achieving gender equality.

4. Participants emphasized the need to approach education in a holistic manner by incorporating gender issues into all education curricula beginning in early childhood. Both formal and informal education could play an important role in promoting an enabling environment for gender equality, particularly in disciplines where traditionally either men/boys or women/girls predominated by, for example, improving girls' access to technical education and training and boys' opportunities in nursing and teaching. The provision of alternative role models for young men and boys could assist in eliminating gender stereotypes and encourage men to seek employment in those professions. Participants emphasized that teachers had to be

equipped to support gender equality and recommended that gender-awareness training be conducted and gender-sensitive education material provided. Teachers were encouraged to create an informal setting to sensitize boys and girls on gender issues.

5. Participants emphasized the need for greater gender awareness to equip men with gender-specific knowledge and skills and to mobilize a critical mass of men to serve as positive agents of change. Areas where such efforts were particularly necessary included the sharing of domestic responsibilities, sexual and reproductive health, fatherhood and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. It was important to create a space where women and men could dialogue on those issues. Education and awareness-raising campaigns that targeted men in male-dominated spaces, such as in the military, sports centres and athletic teams, as well as in schools and the media, had proved to be especially successful.

6. While emphasizing the crucial role of the family, peers and the education system in reducing gender stereotypes, participants underscored the strong influence of the mass media on value systems and the commitment to and perception of gender equality. The media should therefore be encouraged to portray women and girls, men and boys, in non-stereotypical roles. The media, the Internet and advertising could serve as powerful tools for conveying gender-sensitive messages.

7. It was highlighted that in most countries men's role in the family remained limited to that of financial provider. Participants emphasized men's important role as fathers and caregivers and encouraged men to be more involved in the care and support of family members. Through more responsible fatherhood, men could redefine the traditional concepts of masculinity in both the public and private spheres. Participants underscored that legislation and public policies needed to be more conducive to allowing both women and men to take on parental responsibilities and make use of provisions for part-time work.

8. Participants emphasized that gender inequality was one of the root causes of the spread of HIV/AIDS and contributed to women's and girls' increased vulnerability to the epidemic. Globally, there were more women and girls infected with HIV every year than men and boys. Many interventions on HIV/AIDS had failed to address the unequal power relations between men and women that often led to women's inability to protect themselves against the epidemic. While most of the attention so far had been on women's vulnerability, the role of men and boys in preventing the spread of HIV was increasingly acknowledged. There was a need to increase men's and boys' awareness of the consequences of irresponsible sexual behaviour.

9. Participants agreed that men and women had a shared responsibility to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Gender equality and greater responsibility for sexual and reproductive behaviour could be achieved by fostering partnerships between women and men. Men and boys could become agents of change in HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention, and care and support. The promotion of women's property and inheritance rights was likewise important. Women and girls were traditionally involved in home-based care and support of HIV/AIDS victims, with the devastating result that many girls dropped out of school. Men and boys could therefore play an important role in sharing this burden with women and girls.

10. Participants agreed that men should strengthen their efforts to stop violence against women, including trafficking in women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation. To break the vicious cycle of men and boys perpetrating violence against and sexually exploiting women, more awareness-raising activities were required. Participants noted the negative effect of the preponderance of sexual abuse, violence and negative stereotypical images of women in the media, including the Internet, on young boys. Personnel serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations needed greater awareness about gender equality, specifically to prevent sexual exploitation, violence against women and trafficking in women and children in the framework of such operations.

11. The importance of partnerships between men and women for gender equality should be equally understood by men and boys, women and girls. It was critical to perceive gender equality not just as a woman's issue, but as a responsibility of society as a whole, and of both men and women. It was suggested that current patterns of gender inequality overwhelmingly privileged men through economic and political dividends. Therefore, national machineries for the advancement of women could promote strategies to enhance the involvement of men in gender equality work. This would allow men to put forward their perspectives and become full-fledged partners in gender-equal relationships. It was noted that men would have to relinquish some of the control, power and rewards that resulted from their dominant position in public and economic life, and that women would in turn need to give up some of their control and responsibilities in the household to achieve greater gender equality. It was also argued, however, that power was not a finite concept and would multiply when shared. The gains from greater gender equality included community benefits and personal benefits to men when the lives of girls and women as well as of men and boys improved.

12. Participants noted that a significant number of men were already agents of change, especially in eliminating violence against women and in combating HIV/AIDS. Convinced by the argument of justice for women, groups of men already advocated for gender equality at the community level and at the level of individual families. At the community level, religious leaders, workers' groups, young men affected by HIV/AIDS, men working on human rights issues, parliamentarians, athletes and other male public figures had provided strong support for gender equality. At the family level, many men strove to construct "fair families" by sharing responsibilities and economic decision-making. The particular role of fathers in supporting girls' empowerment through education was emphasized. Strong commitment from men in key decision-making positions in support of gender equality was required for achieving broader organizational and institutional changes.

13. Concern was expressed that resources for initiatives to involve men and boys would be diverted from resources currently allocated to the advancement of women and girls. While the need to raise new funds for activities involving men and boys was also suggested, a more cost-effective approach would be to integrate the role of men and boys into all gender equality policies and strategies.

14. Participants emphasized that achieving gender equality required joint efforts at the national level by Governments, parliaments, the private sector and other civil society actors, including religious leaders and the media, to develop national policies and programmes on gender equality that involved men and boys. Non-governmental organizations had been instrumental in bringing forward innovative

ideas on involving men and boys in achieving gender equality. Men's own initiatives on awareness-raising about HIV/AIDS prevention and gender-based violence, including efforts made by men living with HIV/AIDS, were commended and could be used as good practice and replicated more widely.

15. Participants welcomed the opportunity to learn from the experiences of countries that had taken steps to involve men and boys in efforts to achieve gender equality. Examples of good practices were provided and ideas on necessary measures to involve men and boys were shared. Good practices included gender-awareness campaigns and interactive debates on violence against women, HIV/AIDS prevention, "fair play" at home and at the workplace, and the use of music, television, films and messages through the Internet. Other successful strategies included formal educational curricula in primary schools that promoted gender equality; life-skill programmes in formal school settings; programmes that encouraged responsible motherhood and fatherhood; and performance management systems that took into account gender equality. Men's own initiatives in fighting violence against women and the spread of HIV/AIDS, such as the White Ribbon Campaign, were cited as successful examples for encouraging men and boys to take greater responsibility for their actions.

Annex II

Panel discussion on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

Summary submitted by the moderator (Tebatso Future Baleseng (Botswana))

1. At its 4th meeting, on 2 March 2004, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building, one of the thematic issues of the Commission's forty-eighth session. The panellists were: Ariane Brunet (Canada), Coordinator of the Women's Rights Programme, Rights and Democracy; Lois Lewis Bruthus (Liberia), Director-General of the Organization for Children and Adolescent Mothers; Amal Adib Sabbagh (Jordan), Secretary-General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women; Nancy Rocio Tapias Torredo (Colombia), consultant on gender issues oversight, Presidential Advisory Council for the Equality of Women; and Youssef Mahmoud, Director, Africa II Division, Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat. The panel was moderated by Tebatso Future Baleseng (Botswana).

2. Participants affirmed the importance of ensuring women's full and equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building; reasserted that the promotion of gender equality and of women's human rights was integral to the achievement of durable and sustainable peace; and underlined the important roles of men in the promotion of gender equality.

3. Participants noted that considerable progress had been made at the international level in ensuring the promotion of gender equality and women's equal participation in all aspects of peace processes. Such progress was reflected in the growing number of international commitments, including those contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century". The historical significance of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, which placed women's perspectives in the centre of the peace process, was underlined.

4. According to participants, significant challenges remained to the inclusion of women and their full participation in peace processes. Participants were concerned at the continuing absence of women and gender perspectives in conflict prevention. This continuing exclusion of women prevented an effective social, cultural and structural transformation towards more peaceful societies and an environment that was conducive to gender equality. Certain traditional norms, customs and stereotypes constituted obstacles to women's equal participation in peace processes. Participants were also concerned about the absence of, or insufficient, political will, which resulted in lack of action in follow-up to and implementation of international commitments. Different stakeholders lacked capacity to integrate gender perspectives in peace processes, and resources were often not available to support

women's effective participation in those processes. It was noted that poverty was a root cause of conflict as well as of gender inequality. During conflict and in the post-conflict context, lack of physical security for women limited their freedom of movement and capacity for participation, and the use of sexual violence against women, and trafficking in women continued to be major causes of concern.

5. Peace processes in general and peace accords in particular presented opportunities for the promotion of gender equality and the participation of women. Peace accords, in addition to reflecting attention to gender perspectives and ensuring the participation of women, should call for the creation of effective national machinery for the advancement of women. Such machinery would enable the development of effective gender equality policies and the formulation and proposal of measures to institutionalize women's equal participation in post-conflict countries. Similarly, electoral processes in post-conflict countries were key for achieving women's equal participation in public life. Such elections held particular importance for women as the resulting legislative bodies were commonly entrusted with the development, or revision, of a country's laws and thus directly affected all aspects of women's lives. As conflicts commonly brought about changes in traditional gender roles, it was important to build on this momentum in the peace process to strengthen the empowerment of women and their participation in the reconstruction and development of societies.

6. Participants recognized the important role of solidarity among women, and of women's social movements and networks in the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflict within communities. Such networks served as frameworks for enhancing women's capacity to develop a common agenda and have their voices heard in peace processes. The diversity of women and their experiences, needs and contributions were important assets in peace processes. In that regard, participants highlighted the need to overcome the marginalization of particular groups of women in peace processes, especially in post-conflict reconstruction. The importance of maintaining effective links with rural women during all phases of peace processes was discussed, as was the need to ensure that the voices of internally displaced women and refugee women were heard. The situation of widows required particular attention, not only as victims of conflict, but also as crucial players in reconstruction processes and in the survival of their families. It was suggested that the Secretary-General should be requested to prepare a report on the role of widows in post-conflict reconstruction. Experience highlighted the need to address the specific needs of women in disarmament and reintegration programmes and to involve them fully in the reconstruction process.

7. Women needed clear, accurate and timely information about the timing and location of formal and informal peace negotiations to allow them to overcome barriers to participation. They needed access to training, particularly in the areas of conflict prevention and peace-building, to enhance their capacity to participate effectively in negotiations. There was also a need to collect sex-disaggregated data and to undertake studies on the situation of women in different countries so as to find better ways for involving women in conflict prevention activities.

8. Participants emphasized that women's participation in political and public life, particularly in decision-making positions at all levels, at the grass-roots, national and international levels, was crucial for strengthening women's equal participation also in the area of peace and security. Participants identified a number of effective

tools that could be used in that regard, such as gender-sensitive electoral laws and processes and special measures such as affirmative action, including quotas for women in public and electoral offices, as well as voter education efforts. It was also emphasized that, within the United Nations system, more women should be appointed to senior level positions, in particular as special representatives or special envoys of the Secretary-General. The inclusion of gender advisers in peacekeeping missions and the participation of women in peacekeeping missions, including in command positions, were important for increasing attention to gender equality. At the same time, it was emphasized that the promotion of gender equality in the framework of peace processes was the responsibility of all actors.

9. Participants also highlighted the need to develop a comprehensive approach to combat violence against women and trafficking in situations of conflict, including through the formulation of codes of conduct for peacekeeping personnel and efforts to fight corruption. It was also suggested that a post of United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking be established to focus on conflict-related situations. Particular emphasis was placed on the urgency of prosecuting violations of women's human rights. The promotion and protection of women's human rights, during conflict and in its aftermath, should be pursued through the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and in the framework of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other international human rights instruments of particular relevance to women.

10. Adequate financial resources should be provided to support and sustain women's participation in peace processes and to facilitate consultations and networking among women and women leaders. Donors and funding entities were urged to support women's own efforts and to earmark resources within peacekeeping budgets to support women's initiatives on the ground. Within national budgets, resources should be allocated to support the development and functioning of institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women. It was suggested that financial resources should be redirected from arms programmes towards development programmes, particularly in support of women's access to health, education and employment. Participants reiterated the need to mainstream gender perspectives in poverty eradication programmes in order to ensure women's economic empowerment. At the international level, funds should be earmarked in support of programmes targeted at women in conflict situations and more efforts were needed to effectively mainstream gender perspectives in the work of the United Nations, particularly in the areas of peace, development and humanitarian assistance.

11. Since the causes and effects of conflicts transcended national borders, the need for regional and international cooperation in all phases of peace processes was emphasized. Such cooperation was also essential for the implementation of international commitments to the promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women in the framework of peace and electoral processes.

12. Participants called for concrete action, such as the development of clear and practical strategies to ensure the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Information dissemination should be undertaken and training conducted for different stakeholders, including United Nations personnel, on the gender perspectives of peace processes. Regular briefings should be provided for special representatives and special envoys of the Secretary-General and for heads of

peacekeeping missions. Awareness-raising and advocacy efforts should be targeted at civil society in general, and at women's organizations in particular. There was also a need to translate relevant documentation and agreements into local languages to make them accessible to women and enhance accountability. Participants stressed the need for better monitoring and accountability mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels as a way to ensure implementation of such commitments.

13. During the discussion, participants provided examples of good practice on ways to integrate gender perspectives in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building. These included: establishment, at the national level, of a gender task force to follow up on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and relevant sections of the Beijing Platform for Action; setting up of a national forum comprising representatives of different ministries and non-governmental organizations to exchange ideas on issues related to gender equality and peace; implementation of affirmative action policies to ensure women's political participation; development of education curricula to promote a culture of peace; and support to civil society organizations for their work with women affected by conflict.

Annex III

High-level round table of the Commission on the Status of Women on the gaps and challenges in measuring progress in the context of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Summary submitted by the Co-Chairpersons Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea) and Katherine K. Wallman (United States of America)

1. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 March 2004, the Commission held a high-level round table on gaps and challenges in measuring progress in implementation, in the context of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session in 2005. In organizing the high-level round table, the Commission collaborated with the Statistical Commission, which held its thirty-fifth session from 2 to 5 March 2004. The event was co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Vice-Chair and Chairperson-Designate of the thirty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission. The dialogue followed an interactive format in three segments. The first segment was opened by the Co-Chairperson from the Commission on the Status of Women and was devoted to a dialogue among senior representatives of national machineries for the advancement of women attending the forty-eighth session of the Commission from capitals. The Co-Chairperson from the Statistical Commission opened the second segment and invited senior representatives of the Statistical Commission from capitals to participate in the dialogue with all members and observers of the Commission on the Status of Women. In the final segment, invited senior representatives of United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations were invited to take part in the dialogue. A discussion guide prepared by the Bureau of the Commission supported the dialogue (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.1). A total of 48 speakers participated in the high-level round table. Participants included both producers and users of statistics as follows: eight ministers, nine vice-ministers, state secretaries and directors-general/secretaries-general, fifteen other senior representatives from national machineries for the advancement of women; three senior officials from Permanent Missions; four senior representatives from the Statistical Commission; six representatives from United Nations entities and three from non-governmental organizations.

2. Participants welcomed the format of the high-level round table and the collaboration among the Commission on the Status of Women and the Statistical Commission. The topic provided a unique opportunity for an exchange of views and experiences among users and producers of statistics in regard to measuring progress towards the goal of gender equality.

3. Participants provided examples of institutional structures responsible for collecting and maintaining statistical information at the national level. In many

countries, national statistical offices or bureaux, which may be autonomous, had centralized responsibility for the collection of statistics. In addition, line ministries or other offices may collect data and statistics on issues within their area of responsibility. In some instances, mechanisms with responsibility for women's issues and gender equality or gender focal points collected sex-disaggregated data, in association with statistical offices, line ministries, or other relevant bodies. Representatives of the Statistical Commission urged users of data on gender equality to work with and make their data needs known to the national statistical offices, line ministries and other offices in their respective countries.

4. According to participants, one of the purposes of statistics was to enhance the capacity for effective and targeted policy-making. As statistics could be a tool for achieving gender equality, participants stressed the importance of increased cooperation and communication between statistical offices as producers of statistics, and of policy-makers and national machineries for the advancement of women as users of statistics, to ensure the successful collection and use of relevant information. They should be produced using transparent methods and meet user requirements, following the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Enhanced dialogue, including through designated mechanisms, was called for to clarify user needs and the constraints of producers in data collection. The need for regular dissemination of available data to policy makers was stressed.

5. Participants agreed on the importance of good, reliable, timely and readily available sex-disaggregated statistics for measuring progress towards the goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the implementation of gender equality policies and strategies and the identification of areas requiring further attention. Participants agreed on the central role of national statistical offices in coordinating and satisfying the demands for gender-related statistics covering population, education, labour, health and many other areas. Statistics were necessary to demonstrate effectively any lack of progress as well as achievements in the status of women. They were critical to identify and document trends, gaps and barriers in regard to gender equality, to plan and implement well-targeted policies and to assess the impact of policies and decisions on the situation of women. Statistics were also an effective tool in advocacy. Statistical information is an important element in States' reporting on progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in areas such as employment, education, health, participation in public life and decision-making, and violence against women, and in fulfilling reporting obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Gender-specific data were also a tool for successful gender mainstreaming. At the same time, participants identified as a challenge the systematic availability and use of statistics and consolidated findings in ongoing policy-making. It was also pointed out that a lack of agreement on what information would be collected and how could lead to reduced credibility and loss of confidence in government policies.

6. Participants discussed gaps in data collection, methodological shortcomings, and the implications of poor, insufficient or unreliable statistics for policy-making. Participants also discussed the necessity of coordination among all actors, such as line ministries and civil society, in order to avoid duplication of effort, lack of harmonization and comparability in the collection of information. In this respect, the central role of the national statistical offices in coordination was discussed. Participants discussed the need for national statistical systems to involve users and

other stakeholders of gender statistics in the planning of data collection, compilation and dissemination of information through regular consultation and meetings between users and producers of statistics.

7. In certain areas, such as violence against women, methodological shortcomings and lack of reporting, or under-reporting, led to inaccurate data collection, and such unreliable or misleading information could lead to poor policies. Outdated data sometimes limit the usefulness of the information as a basis for policy-making. At times there is a discrepancy between the types of statistics produced and the needs of policy makers. While most data was now collected disaggregated by sex, the analysis of such data was not always undertaken in a sex-disaggregated manner. In some cases, data were presented at the national level, but not for the State or local level. In new areas, such as information and communication technologies, data collection in general remained limited, which also reduced its usefulness for policy-making supportive of gender equality. Newly emerging areas of work require further efforts and increased support to national statistical offices to improve the collection of statistics in the social field. Statistics were also needed to monitor enforcement of laws. Data on business ownership should be broken down by gender. All these new demands for statistics must be considered in the light of the need to support and strengthen the national and international statistical system to ensure that it may cover newly emerging areas of concern in a valid and sustainable way.

8. It was noted that, since quantitative data alone were not sufficient for providing a complete picture of many situations, these had to be accompanied by qualitative data and contextual analysis of a problem. National statistical offices use quantitative information to describe the sources and quality of statistics collected and compiled. Statistical analysis of data is also required. While disaggregation of data on the basis of sex was essential, disaggregation by other factors was also important since women frequently experienced multiple discrimination based on factors such as age, race or ethnicity. Careful attention was necessary to ensure that such data were collected and produced in a culturally sensitive manner, and used positively for the advancement of women and not to further discriminate against them. Participants noted the importance of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to these goals of transparency and confidentiality of information. In collecting particular types of data, participants emphasized the need to work with the target group, especially with vulnerable groups of women, such as women victims of violence, single parents, or indigenous women, to ensure that their concerns in regard to privacy, safety and other aspects were properly covered. Much remains to be done in these areas in terms of developing suitable data collection, compilation and analytical methods for such work.

9. While statistics, targets and indicators were collected and compiled at the national level, participants stressed the need to ensure comparability of data internationally to measure progress in implementation of the Platform for Action. In some areas, such as trafficking in women, regional and international cooperation was essential to measure the problem and track developments. It was recognized that it was sometimes difficult to achieve international comparability of statistics and indicators.

10. A challenge common to many countries was the lack of sufficient financial and human resources, skills and capacity to effectively collect and process statistics

relating to the situation of women, and to compile qualitative information and indicators. As data collection was very costly, there was a need to increase cooperation between national statistical offices and line ministries responsible for this work. Participants called for enhanced collaboration at various levels to support data compilation, comparative analysis and the sharing of experiences and best practices among countries. In this regard, the role of the entities of the United Nations was emphasized and attention was drawn to the availability of guidelines, training programmes and other capacity-building tools for use at the national and/or subregional level following agreed standards and methods for compilation of sound statistics. Participants noted the usefulness of the publication *The World's Women 2000: Trends and Statistics*. It was also noted that the United Nations Statistics Division, in collaboration with the regional commissions and key international agencies, is preparing the next issuance of *The World's Women* for 2005. It will review progress of national statistical authorities to collect, compile and report to the United Nations on gender statistics.

11. Increased collaboration could prove particularly useful in the compilation of new statistics and surveys related to women and children affected by HIV/AIDS, violence against women and harmful traditional practices. Because of cost and other issues, participants cautioned against initiating collection of new data series, and instead called for expanding and disaggregating existing collections on the basis of sex. Participants noted the cost to societies that can accrue from lack of statistics for effective policy-making while at the same time noted the necessity to support statistical systems that provide the necessary information required by a wide range of stakeholders, including policy makers, researchers and civil society.

12. Inclusion of, and cooperation with, civil society in data collection and the collection of census and survey information was seen as an important vehicle for improved participation and understanding of concepts, definitions, data and survey information. Such collaboration and cooperation could also enhance political support for the production of gender-specific statistics and analysis.

13. Users of statistics provided examples of periodic and new publications of gender statistics and indicators, stressing that wide availability of such data was vital for public debate on progress in gender equality. Governmental statistical web sites were also increasingly used to publish such information free of charge. Good practices in the collection, dissemination and use of sex-disaggregated statistics included coordination mechanisms and advisory groups to foster dialogue and cooperation among producers and users, and to reduce the cost of data compilation. Databases had been established in areas such as employment and political participation of women. New types of analysis, such as gender equality indexes or barometers served to illustrate government performance at national and local level. Measurement of progress in gender equality in certain areas was also sometimes required in conjunction with budget bills.

14. The high-level round table greatly benefited from the participation of high-level representatives from capitals and from the interaction among members of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Statistical Commission in a unique dialogue between users and producers of statistics. The exchange of experiences and interaction among Member States, representatives of United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations was seen as a valuable contribution to the forty-eighth session and preparation for the forty-ninth session. Participants were

encouraged to continue this exchange of information at the national level. Such cooperation would be of benefit in the identification of challenges, good practices and lessons learned in the compilation and use of statistics and indicators to support decision-making processes and the monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

Annex IV

List of documents before the Commission at its forty-eighth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.6/2004/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work
E/CN.6/2004/2	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women in the context of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
E/CN.6/2004/3	3	Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming gender perspectives in entities of the United Nations system
E/CN.6/2004/4	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
E/CN.6/2004/5	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan
E/CN.6/2004/6 and Corr.1	3	Report of the Secretary-General on release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts
E/CN.6/2004/7	12	Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
E/CN.6/2004/8 and Corr.1	3 (a)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women
E/CN.6/2004/9	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality
E/CN.6/2004/10	3 (c) (ii)	Report of the Secretary-General on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building
E/CN.6/2004/11 and Add.1 and 2	4	Report of the Secretary-General on future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.6/2004/12	5	Letter dated 31 October 2003 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/2004/13	3 (a)	Letter dated 4 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/2004/L.1	3 (a)	Draft resolution entitled "Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan"
E/CN.6/2004/L.1/Rev.1	3 (a)	Revised draft resolution entitled "Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan"
E/CN.6/2004/L.2	3 (a)	Draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women"
E/CN.6/2004/L.3	3 (a)	Draft resolution entitled "Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women"
E/CN.6/2004/L.3/Rev.1	3 (a)	Revised draft resolution entitled "Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women"
E/CN.6/2004/L.4	3	Draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS"
E/CN.6/2004/L.4/Rev.1	3	Revised draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS"
E/CN.6/2004/L.5	3	Draft resolution entitled "Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflict"
E/CN.6/2004/L.6	3 (a)	Draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system"
E/CN.6/2004/L.7	4	Draft decision entitled "Communications concerning the status of women"
E/CN.6/2004/L.8	6	Draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission
E/CN.6/2004/L.9	7	Draft report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session
E/CN.6/2004/L.10	4	Amendments to draft resolution E/CN.6/2004/L.7, "Communications concerning the status of women"
E/CN.6/2004/L.11	4	Draft decision entitled "Communications concerning the status of women"
E/CN.6/2004/L.12	3 (a)	Draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the forty-ninth session of the Commission"

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.6/2004/L.13	3 (a)	Draft decision entitled "Working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women"
E/CN.6/2004/NGO/16, 19, 24-25, 41	3	Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2004/NGO/1	3 (a)	Statements submitted by a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2004/NGO/2-3, 5, 9-10, 13, 18, 20-21 23, 27, 29, 31-32, 35, 38	3 (c) (i)	Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
E/CN.6/2004/NGO/4, 6-7 and Corr.1, 8, 11-12 14-15, 17, 22, 26, 28, 30, 33-34, 36-37, 39-40, 42	3 (c) (ii)	Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

04-33528 (E) 090604